directory by name. Allow changes in directory to find "enabled" mailboxes by naming the directories with the subscriber's name and/or telephone number/extension.

2. Put up a "read_me_first" file for visitors to the mailbox. This file contains the mailbox owner's name, the Active Greeting Annotation, and any other visual information that the subscriber wishes to display, and includes information about downloading the audio greeting in an appropriate voice format, and uploading files into the mailbox. (See below).

3. Use a daemon process to monitor the greeting information associated with a mailbox to extract information from the messaging system through an API and re-generate the appropriate "read_me_first" and greeting files in each directory. This daemon process is also responsible for monitoring the subscriber's FTP directory for new files, and effectuating delivery of uploaded files to the associated mailbox in the messaging system.

4. The daemon process uses the FTP login information as the originator information when delivering the file.

5. The message subject is the name of the delivered file.

6. A standard FTP copy operation allows the upload of multimedia files. Multimedia types and formats are indicated by conventional filename extensions, for example, .WAV, .TIF, .BMP, or .TXT.

7. The message is delivered using default delivery options, such as not-private, not-priority, etc.

8. It may be desirable to limit the size and number of files that an Internet caller may place in the mailbox during a single FTP session similarly to the way that telephone answering limits the caller to a single message per call, to ensure that a single session cannot seize all available mailbox space.

For Telnet:

1. Set up a Telnet server and set up a restricted login for visitors to the messaging system. The restricted login is set to accept a recipient's mailbox address by name or telephone number/extension, collect the caller's name and authentication handle (if offered), subject, and delivery options, and then execute a user-selected editor once and then drop the session.

2. On successful login, a text greeting is generated and displayed. The greeting information associated with a mailbox is extracted from the messaging system through a messaging API. The displayed greeting contains the mailbox owner's name, the Active Greeting Annotation, and any other visual information that the subscriber wishes to display.

3. The Telnet editor session is used to generate a text message. Operations on the Telnet client, such as cut and paste, are allowed.

4. When the editing session is complete, the contents of the edit buffer are delivered as a message.

5. It may be desirable to limit the size of the edit buffer in a Telnet session similarly to the way that telephone answer limits the caller to a single message per call, to ensure that a single session cannot seize all available mailbox space.

For Chat:

1. Set up a Chat server conforming to the Talk protocol for visitors to the messaging system.

2. Set up a daemon process to terminate the Talk protocol on behalf of enabled mailboxes. The user may be specified by mailbox address, by name, or by telephone number/extension.

3. On successful connection, a text greeting is generated and displayed. The greeting information associated with a

mailbox is extracted from the messaging system through a messaging API. The displayed greeting contains the mailbox owner's name, the Active Greeting Annotation, and any other visual information that the subscriber wishes to display.

4. A series of two or more outbound messages prompts the caller to enter their name and authentication handle (if offered), and subject. The next two messages received are used on message delivery to populate these messaging fields.

5. The remainder of what is typed by the caller is captured and saved as text.

6. When the session is complete, the contents of the captured text are delivered as a message.

7. It may be desirable to limit the duration and size of the text-capturing function in a Chat session similarly to the way that telephone answering limits the caller to a single message per call, to ensure that a single session cannot seize all available mailbox space.

In all of the cases above, if the layout of the Web greeting page is done in standard HTML description format, then the FTP "read_me_first" file, the Chat outbound message, and the Telnet login message are just text-only renderings of this page.

Also, automatic capture of authentication information from Internet callers when they access the service may be included. For example, the IP address and server name of the originating terminal 103 may be identified in the "From:" field of the message. Or, subscribers of the messaging system may be allowed to create their own custom HTML greeting documents and install them on the messaging system as one of their valid personal greetings. Such greetings may include interactive capabilities, e.g., "Press one to get a map to my office; press two to automatically schedule a meeting with me.", etc. Such forms of greeting or call-handling can be represented as Web templates, described above. Such changes and modifications can be made without departing from the spirit and the scope of the invention and without diminishing its attendant advantages. It is therefore intended that such changes and modifications be covered by the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A method of messaging in a communications system comprising a user terminal and a messaging system interconnected by an Internet/intranet, comprising the steps of:

sending a request identifying a subscriber of the messaging system from the user terminal via the Internet/intranet to the messaging system;

in response to receipt of the request at the messaging system, sending subscriber information corresponding to the identified subscriber from the messaging system via the Internet/intranet to the terminal;

in response to receipt of the sent subscriber information at the terminal, presenting the sent subscriber information to a user of the terminal;

in response to the user providing message information at the terminal, sending the message information from the terminal via the Internet/intranet to the messaging system;

in response to receipt of the sent message information at the messaging system, composing the message information into a message of the messaging system; and

storing the message in the messaging system in a mailbox of the identified subscriber.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

in response to the storing, sending an acknowledgment of the message from the messaging system via the Internet/intranet to the terminal; and